



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Nancy Singer (202) 205-6740

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SBA SPOTLIGHTS TOP ENTREPRENEURS FROM INDUSTRIES ACROSS-THE-BOARD

National Small Business Week 2001 in Conjunction with the 34th Annual Joint Industry/SBA Procurement Conference

WASHINGTON – Outstanding small business owners from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam, representing a true cross-section of American industry, will come to Washington, D.C. to compete for the title of *National Small Business Person of the Year*, marking National Small Business Week 2001.

During National Small Business Week ceremonies, May 7-9, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will select the *National Small Business Person of the Year* among the state winners. In keeping with this year's theme for the event, "A History of Success, A Millennium of Opportunity," the SBA will also honor regional and national prime contractors and subcontractors with prestigious annual awards.

The winners will assemble in the nation's capital to receive honors from the SBA and from their peers. They embody the entrepreneurial enterprise and spirit that is essential to the growth of the American economy and are a diverse and innovative group, involved in manufacturing, retail, construction, technology, professional services, and a host of other industries. All the winners are listed on SBA's Web site at <http://smallbusinesssuccess.sba.gov/>.

The SBA celebration in Washington, D.C., held at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, will feature workshops on how to engage in e-commerce and international trade, areas of expertise that are becoming more and more central to the competitiveness of small business owners today.

As part of a 38-year tradition, President George W. Bush will issue an annual proclamation celebrating Small Business Week.

The SBA will also honor *Small Business Advocates*. These awards recognize individuals who have been advocates of minority-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned small businesses. In addition, awards will go to a small business journalist and to accounting and financial services representatives who contributed to small business development. The Phoenix Awards, a special awards category, recognize a public official, a business owner, and a volunteer whose efforts and contributions enabled their business or community to recover following a disaster declaration.

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Additional special awards honor the *SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year*, *Small Business Exporter of the Year* and the *SBA Entrepreneurial Success Award* winner. The latter award is presented to a company that has developed into a large business with SBA assistance. The National *SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) Chapter of the Year* will also be honored.

During Small Business Week, the winners meet with top administration officials, members of Congress and leaders of national business organizations.

For more information about all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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